

**INTERIM TRAFFIC TERMINATION AGREEMENT**

by and between

**Wisconsin Bell, Inc. d/b/a Ameritech Wisconsin**

and

**NextGen Communications, LLC**

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**INTERIM TRAFFIC TERMINATION AGREEMENT**

This Interim Traffic Termination Agreement ("Interim Agreement") is by and between **"Wisconsin Bell, Inc. d/b/a Ameritech Wisconsin"** (**"AMERITECH WISCONSIN"**) and, **NextGen Communications, LLC ("NextGen")** (a Wisconsin corporation).

The Parties acknowledge and agree that they are entering into the terms of this Agreement in order to allow the Parties to both settle a dispute and allow for the immediate: transiting of ELCA and wireless traffic across the Party's facilities, tandem switching of toll traffic to interexchange carriers and termination of originating toll traffic from AMERITECH WISCONSIN. The Parties further acknowledge and agree: that they intend to reserve their rights to negotiate and, if necessary, arbitrate the terms and conditions of their final traffic termination agreement; this Interim Agreement will not be submitted to the state regulatory commission(s) for approval and shall not constitute an Interconnection Agreement entered into under Sections 251/252 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 ("the Act"); and that the rates, terms and conditions set forth in this Interim Agreement are not available for adoption by any other carrier under Section 252(i) of the Act.

The Parties further acknowledge and agree that the rates, terms and conditions set forth in this Interim Agreement shall be effective immediately upon execution of this Interim Agreement by both Parties. In no event shall such Interim Agreement remain in effect for more than a one (1) year term which shall commence upon the Effective Date and which shall automatically terminate one (1) year from the Effective Date of this Agreement, as more specifically provided in Section 31 of this Interim Agreement or at such other time as the Parties may mutually agree. The Parties specifically acknowledge that should the Parties intend to enter into a successor arrangement to this Interim Agreement, the terms and conditions of such successor arrangement must be negotiated prior to the termination of this Interim Agreement.

This Agreement is an integrated package that reflects a balancing of interests critical to the Parties. The Parties agree that their entry into this Agreement is without prejudice to and does not waive any positions they may have taken previously, or may take in the future, in any legislative, regulatory, judicial or other public forum addressing any matters related to the same types of arrangements covered in this Interim Agreement. However, the Parties also recognize that this Interim Agreement is also the settlement of a dispute between the Parties and as such, neither Party shall seek relief from the terms of this Interim Agreement. The Parties agree that this Interim Agreement is based upon certain technical, network and OSS attributes and limitations, and is consistent with the laws and regulatory requirements of, the State of Wisconsin ("Applicable State"). Thus, recognizing there are differences between the technical, network and OSS attributes and limitations of the various SBC affiliated ILECs and NextGen and between the laws and regulatory requirements of various states, the Parties acknowledge and agree that for the exchange of ELCA traffic, this Agreement shall only apply to the State of Wisconsin and shall be limited to the exchange/termination of NextGen's traffic in Wisconsin in the following specific geographic areas: a) Glenwood City and

Boyceville; b) Glenwood City and Clear Lake; c) Glenwood City and Deer Park; d) Glenwood City and Green Lake; e) Glenwood City and Green Valley; f) Glenwood City and Hammond; g) Glenwood City and Knapp; h) Glenwood City and New Richmond; i) Glenwood City and Prairie Farm; h) Glenwood City and Wheeler.

**NOW, THEREFORE, AMERITECH WISCONSIN and NextGen hereby agree as follows:**

1. **DEFINITIONS.** Except as otherwise specified herein, the definitions set forth below in this Section shall apply to all Sections and/or Exhibits contained in this Interim Agreement. To the extent that there may be any conflict between a definition set forth in this Section and any language in another Section or Exhibit, the language set forth in such other Section or Exhibit shall control with respect to that Section or Exhibit.
  - 1.1 **"Affiliate"** is As Defined in the Act.
  - 1.2 **"Applicable Law"** means all laws, statutes, common law, regulations, ordinances, codes, rules, guidelines, orders, permits, tariffs and approvals, including those relating to the environment or health and safety, of any Governmental Authority that apply to the Parties or the subject matter of this Interim Agreement.
  - 1.3 **"Automated Message Accounting" (AMA)** is a structure inherent in switch technology that initially records Telecommunication message information. AMA format is contained in the Automated Message Accounting document published by Telcordia (formerly known as Bellcore) as GR-1100-CORE, which defines and amends the industry standard for message recording.
  - 1.4 **"Automatic Number Identification" (ANI)** means the number transmitted through the network identifying the calling party.
  - 1.5 **"Business Day"** means Monday through Friday, excluding holidays on which AMERITECH WISCONSIN does not provision new retail services and products.
  - 1.6 **"Calling Party Number" (CPN)** means a Signaling System 7 "SS7" parameter whereby the ten (10) digit number of the calling Party is forwarded from the End Office.
  - 1.7 **"Central Office"** means a landline switching entity within the public switched telecommunications network.
  - 1.8 **"Claim"** means any pending or threatened claim, action, proceeding or suit.
  - 1.9 **"Commission"** means the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC-WI).
  - 1.10 **"Common Channel Signaling" (CCS)** means an out-of-band, packet-switched, signaling network used to transport supervision signals, control signals, and data

messages. It is a special network, fully separate from the transmission path of the public switched network. Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, the CCS protocol used by the Parties shall be SS7.

- 1.11 **“Common Language Location Identifier” (CLLI)** codes provide a unique 11-character representation of a network interconnection point. The first 8 characters identify the city, state and building location, while the last 3 characters identify the network component.
- 1.12 **“Consequential Damages”** means Losses claimed to have resulted from any indirect, incidental, reliance, special, consequential, punitive, exemplary, multiple or any other Loss, including damages claimed to have resulted from harm to business, loss of anticipated revenues, savings, or profits, or other economic Loss claimed to have been suffered not measured by the prevailing Party's actual damages, and regardless of whether the Parties knew or had been advised of the possibility that such damages could result in connection with or arising from anything said, omitted, or done hereunder or related hereto, including willful acts or omissions.
- 1.13 **“Delaying Event”** means any failure of a Party to perform any of its obligations set forth in this Interim Agreement, caused in whole or in part by:
- 1.13.1 the failure of the other Party to perform any of its obligations set forth in this Interim Agreement, including but not limited to a Party's failure to provide the other Party with accurate and complete Service Orders;
  - 1.13.2 any delay, act or failure to act by the other Party or its End User, agent or subcontractor; or
  - 1.13.3 any Force Majeure Event.
- 1.14 **Extended Local Calling Arrangements (ELCA)** - means a local calling scope arrangement that provides End Users a local calling scope beyond their basic exchange serving area.
- 1.14.1 Locally dialed calls originated by a LEC's End Users and terminated to another LEC's End Users will be classified as Local Mandatory EAS (EAS means Extended Area Service), Optional One Way EAS, Optional Two Way EAS, or Extended Community Calling (“ECC”).
  - 1.14.2 ELCA traffic must actually originate and actually terminate to End Users physically located within Commission approved ELCA calling areas, and must be mutually recognized and identified as such by both Parties in the arrangement.

- 1.15 **"End Users"** means a third-party residence or business that subscribes to Telecommunications Services provided by any of the Parties at retail. As used herein, the term "End Users" does not include any of the Parties to this Interim Agreement with respect to any item or service obtained under this Interim Agreement.
- 1.16 **"Exchange Access"** is As Defined in the Act.
- 1.17 **"Exchange Area"** means an area, defined by the Commission, for which a distinct local rate schedule is in effect.
- 1.18 **"Exchange Service"** means Telephone Exchange Service, As Defined in the Act.
- 1.19 **"Feature Group A" (FGA)** means calls either originated by, or delivered to, an End User who has purchased switched access FGA service from the interstate or intrastate tariffs of either Party. FGA also includes, but is not limited to, FGA-like services provided by either Party, where calls are originated from and/or delivered to numbers which are assigned to a Rate Center within one LATA but where the Party receiving the call is physically located in a LATA different than the LATA of the Party originating the call. The intercarrier compensation mechanism as well as additional definitions for FGA are specified in the appropriate Appendix FGA.
- 1.20 **"Feature Group D" (FG-D)** is access available to all customers, providing trunk side access to a Party's End Office Switches with an associated uniform 101XXXX access code for customer's use in originating and terminating communications.
- 1.21 **"FCC"** means the Federal Communications Commission.
- 1.22 **"Foreign Exchange" (FX)** means a service whereby calls either originated by or delivered to a customer who has purchased FX service from the state or interstate tariffs of either Party. FX also includes, but is not limited to, FX-like services provided by either Party where calls are originated from and/or delivered to numbers which are assigned to a Rate Center within one local calling area but where the Party receiving the call is physically located outside of that local calling area. FX service can be either interLATA or intraLATA. InterLATA FX, where the originating and receiving parties are physically located in different LATAs, is considered equivalent to FGA and the intercarrier compensation mechanism is the same as FGA. IntraLATA FX, when provided by two or more local exchange carriers "LECs", is considered a jointly provided service and meet-point billed by those providing it utilizing a mutually agreed to meet-point billing, or meet-point billing like procedure.
- 1.23 **"Governmental Authority"** means any federal, state, local, foreign, or international court, government, department, commission, board, bureau, agency, official, or other

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regulatory, administrative, legislative, or judicial authority with jurisdiction over the subject matter at issue.

- 1.24 **"Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier" (ILEC)** is As Defined in the Act.
- 1.25 **"Intellectual Property"** means copyrights, patents, trademarks, trade secrets, mask works and all other intellectual property rights.
- 1.26 **"Interconnection"** is As Defined in the Act.
- 1.27 **"Interexchange Carrier" (IXC)** means a carrier that provides, directly or indirectly, interLATA or intraLATA Telephone Toll Services.
- 1.28 **"InterLATA"** is As Defined in the Act.
- 1.29 **IntraLATA Toll Traffic** means the IntraLATA traffic between two locations within one LATA where one of the locations lies outside of the normal local calling area as defined by the applicable Commission.
- 1.30 **"Local Access Transport Area" (LATA)** is As Defined in the Act.
- 1.31 **"Local Exchange Carrier" (LEC)** is As Defined in the Act.
- 1.32 **"Local Exchange Routing Guide" (LERG)** is a Telcordia Reference document used by Telecommunications Carriers to identify NPA-NXX routing and homing information as well as Network element and equipment designations.
- 1.33 **"Local Calls"** for purposes of intercarrier compensation, is traffic where all calls are within the same common local and common mandatory local calling area, i.e., within the same or different SBC Exchange(s) that participate in the same common Mandatory Local Calling Area approved by the applicable State Commission. Local Calls must actually originate and actually terminate to parties physically located within the same common local or common Mandatory Local Calling Area.
- 1.34 **"Local Mandatory EAS"** is traffic where all calls are required to originate and terminate within the same common local and common Mandatory Local Calling Area, i.e., within the same common Mandatory Local Calling Area approved by the applicable State Commission.
- 1.35 **"Local Number Portability"** means the ability of users of Telecommunications Services to retain, at the same location, the presence of a previously existing telephone number(s).

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- 1.36 **"Location Routing Number" (LRN)** is a ten (10) digit number that is assigned to the network switching elements (Central Office – Host and Remotes as required) for the routing of calls in the network. The first six (6) digits of the LRN will be one of the assigned NPA NXX of the switching element. The purpose and functionality of the last four (4) digits of the LRN have not yet been defined but are passed across the network to the terminating switch.
- 1.37 **"Local Service Provider" (LSP)** is the LEC that provides retail local exchange service to an End User. The LSP may or may not provide any physical network components to support the provision of that End User's service.
- 1.38 **"Loss" or "Losses"** means any and all losses, costs (including court costs), claims, damages (including fines, penalties, and criminal or civil judgments and settlements), injuries, liabilities and expenses (including attorneys' fees).
- 1.39 **"Mandatory Local Calling Area"** means an arrangement that requires End Users to subscribe to a local calling area beyond their basic exchange.
- 1.40 **"Mandatory Local Calls"** for purposes of intercarrier compensation, is traffic where all calls are within the same common local and common mandatory local calling area, i.e., within the same common local mandatory local calling area approved by the applicable state Commission.
- 1.41 **"Meet-Point Billing" (MPB)** refers to the billing associated with interconnection of facilities between two or more LECs for the routing of traffic to and from an IXC with which one of the LECs does not have a direct connection. In a multi-bill environment, each Party bills the appropriate tariffed rate for its portion of a jointly provided Switched Exchange Access Service.
- 1.42 **"Mutual Compensation"** is the compensation agreed upon by the Parties for those "Local Calls" that originate on one network and terminate on the other network.
- 1.43 **"Network Element"** is As Defined in the Act.
- 1.44 **"North American Numbering Plan" (NANP)** A numbering architecture in which every station in the NANP Area is identified by a unique ten-digit address consisting of a three-digit NPA code, a three digit central office code of the form NXX, and a four-digit line number of the form XXXX.
- 1.45 **"Numbering Plan Area" (NPA)** also called an area code. An NPA is the 3-digit code that occupies the A, B, C positions in the 10-digit NANP format that applies throughout the NANP Area. NPAs are of the form NXX, where N represents the digits 2-9 and X represents any digit 0-9. In the NANP, NPAs are classified as either geographic or non-geographic. a) Geographic NPAs are NPAs which correspond to discrete geographic areas within the NANP Area. b) Non-geographic NPAs are

NPA's that do not correspond to discrete geographic areas, but which are instead assigned for services with attributes, functionalities, or requirements that transcend specific geographic boundaries. The common examples are NPAs in the N00 format, e.g., 800.

- 1.46 **"Number Portability"** is As Defined in the Act.
- 1.47 **"NXX" or "Central Office Code"** is the three-digit switch entity indicator that is defined by the fourth through sixth digits of a 10-digit telephone number within the NANP. Each NXX Code contains 10,000 station numbers.
- 1.48 Traffic originated by one Party's End User and terminated to the other Party's End User will be classified as **"Optional One-Way EAS"** under this Interim Agreement where one of the Parties allows its End Users to pay a premium to place calls on a toll free basis into a specific geographic area that is greater than that End Users' basic local calling scope.
- 1.49 **"Optional Two-Way EAS"** is a retail service arrangement where one of the Parties contracts with the other Party to allow its End Users to pay a premium to both place and receive calls on a toll free basis within a specific geographic area that is greater than that End Users' basic local calling scope. Only end user customers of the Parties to this Interim Agreement are specifically included within this retail calling arrangement.
- 1.50 **"Party"** means either LEC or AMERITECH WISCONSIN; **"Parties"** means both LEC and AMERITECH WISCONSIN.
- 1.51 **"Person"** means an individual or a partnership, an association, a joint venture, a corporation, a business or a trust or other entity organized under Applicable law, an unincorporated organization or any Governmental Authority.
- 1.52 **"Rate Center Area"** means the specific geographic point that has been designated by a given LEC as being associated with a particular NPA-NXX code that has been assigned to the LEC for its provision of Telephone Exchange Service. The Rate Center is the finite geographic point identified by a specific V&H coordinate, which is used by that LEC to measure, for billing purposes, distance sensitive transmission services associated with the specific Rate Center.
- 1.53 **"Rating Point"** means the V&H coordinates associated with a particular telephone number for rating purposes.
- 1.54 **"SBC Communications Inc. (SBC)"** means the holding company which owns the following ILECs: Illinois Bell Telephone Company, Indiana Bell Telephone Company Incorporated, Michigan Bell Telephone Company, Nevada Bell Telephone Company, The Ohio Bell Telephone Company, Pacific Bell Telephone Company,

The Southern New England Telephone Company, Southwestern Bell Telephone Company, and/or Wisconsin Bell, Inc. d/b/a AMERITECH WISCONSIN.

1.55 **"Signaling System 7" (SS7)** means a signaling protocol used by the CCS Network.

1.56 **"State Abbreviation"** means the following:

1.56.1 **"WI"** means Wisconsin

1.57 **"Switched Access Service"** means an offering of facilities for the purpose of the origination or termination of traffic from or to Exchange Service customer in a given area pursuant to a Switched Access tariff. Switched Access Services include: Feature Group A, Feature Group B, Feature Group D, 800 service, and 900 access. Switched Access does not include traffic exchanged between LECs for purpose of local exchange interconnection.

1.58 **"Telcordia Technologies"** - Formally known as Bellcore, a wholly owned subsidiary of Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC). The organization conducts research and development projects for its owners, including development of new Telecommunications Services. Telcordia Technologies also provides certain centralized technical and management services for the regional holding companies and also provides generic guidelines for the telecommunications industry for products, services and technologies.

1.59 **"Telecommunications"** is As Defined in the Act.

1.60 **"Telecommunications Carrier"** is As Defined in the Act.

1.61 **"Telecommunications Service"** is As Defined in the Act.

1.62 **"Telephone Exchange Service"** is As Defined in the Act.

1.63 **"Telephone Toll Service"** is As Defined in the Act.

1.64 **"Terminating Local Minutes of Use" (MOU)** means the terminating Local Call conversation minutes.

1.65 **"Third Party"** means any Person other than a Party.

1.66 **"Transit"** means intermediate transport and/or switching of ELCA and wireless traffic by a Party which neither originates nor terminates that traffic on its network and is acting solely as an intermediary.

1.67 **"Trunk"** means a communication line between two switching systems.

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- 1.68 **"Undefined Terms"**. The Parties acknowledge that terms may appear in this Interim Agreement which are not defined and agree that any such terms shall be construed in accordance with their usage in the telecommunications industry as of the effective date of this Interim Agreement, or absent such usage, the common meaning.
- 1.69 **"Wireless Service Provider" (WSP)** means a radio common carrier provider of domestic public wireless or wireless telecommunication service, as defined in Part 22, Subpart H or Part 24, of the FCC Rules and Regulations.

## **2. NETWORK ARCHITECTURE**

- 2.1 The Parties will work cooperatively to implement this Interim Agreement. The Parties will exchange appropriate information (for example, maintenance contact numbers, network information, information required to comply with law enforcement and other security agencies of the Government, escalation processes, etc.) to achieve this desired result.
- 2.2 Each Party will administer its network to ensure acceptable service levels to all users of its network services. Service levels are generally considered acceptable only when End Users are able to establish connections with little or no delay encountered in the network. Each Party will provide a 24-hour contact number for Network Traffic Management issues to the other's surveillance management center.
- 2.3 Each Party maintains the right to implement protective network traffic management controls, such as "cancel to", "call gapping" or 7-digit and 10-digit code gaps, to selectively cancel the completion of traffic over its network, including traffic destined for the other Party's network, when required to protect the public-switched network from congestion as a result of occurrences such as facility failures, switch congestion or failure or focused overload. Each Party shall immediately notify the other Party of any protective control action planned or executed.
- 2.4 Where the capability exists, originating or terminating traffic reroutes may be implemented by either Party to temporarily relieve network congestion due to facility failures or abnormal calling patterns. Reroutes shall not be used to circumvent normal trunk servicing. Expansive controls shall be used only when mutually agreed to by the Parties. Each Party shall notify the other Party of any originating or terminating traffic reroutes within a reasonable period of time.
- 2.5 The Parties shall cooperate and share pre-planning information regarding cross-network call-ins expected to generate large or focused temporary increases in call volumes to prevent or mitigate the impact of these events on the public-switched network, including any disruption or loss of service to the other Party's End Users. Facsimile (FAX) numbers must be exchanged by the Parties to facilitate event

notifications for planned mass calling events.

- 2.6 Neither Party shall use any Interconnection, Resale Service, Network Element, function, facility, product or service provided under this Interim Agreement or any other service related thereto or used in combination therewith in any manner that interferes with or impairs service over any facilities of the other Party, its affiliated companies or other connecting telecommunications carriers, prevents any carrier from using its Telecommunications Service, impairs the quality or the privacy of Telecommunications Service to other carriers or to either Party's End Users, causes hazards to either Party's personnel or the public, damage to either Party's or any connecting carrier's facilities or equipment, including any malfunction of ordering or billing systems or equipment. Upon such occurrence either Party may discontinue or refuse service, but only for so long as the other Party is violating this provision. Upon any such violation, either Party shall provide the other Party notice of the violation at the earliest practicable time.
- 2.7 The Parties agree that, unless otherwise mutually negotiated, the quality of such network connections shall be equal to that of the existing facilities that are jointly provided by AMERITECH WISCONSIN and NextGen.

### **3. NETWORK CONNECTIONS**

- 3.1 In each exchange area in which AMERITECH WISCONSIN or NextGen wishes to terminate traffic to the other Party's End Users and/or utilize the other Party's facilities for a transiting function, AMERITECH WISCONSIN and NextGen at a minimum, will:
- 3.1.1 Route such traffic via direct network facilities to either a) each others access and local tandem(s), and/or each end office meeting the other Party's facilities at the existing Exchange Area Boundary (EAB) or, b) another mutually agreed upon point.
- 3.1.2 Route such traffic to the other Party utilizing another incumbent LECs facilities and/or utilizing another telecommunications carrier's facilities with whom the Party already has an agreement for exchanging like traffic. The Parties acknowledge and agree that this option would not be implemented without the written agreement of the incumbent LEC and/or other telecommunications carrier as well as the mutual consent of each of the Parties. The Parties further agree that in order for this option to be considered, it is the responsibility of the originating Party to obtain the required written permission from the incumbent LEC and/or other telecommunications carrier.
- 3.2 The Parties agree that when the traffic destined for an AMERITECH WISCONSIN or NextGen access tandem reaches a level such that it is more efficient to connect via direct end office connections, NextGen and AMERITECH WISCONSIN will

negotiate to establish a direct end office trunk group and provide transport for that trunk group to the exchange where the AMERITECH WISCONSIN or NextGen end office is located.

- 3.3 The Parties have already conducted joint planning and forecasting meetings.
- 3.4 The Parties agree that if either Party establishes additional tandems in an exchange, the other Party may also connect to the additional tandems.
- 3.5 Neither Party shall deliver traffic destined to terminate at the other Party's end office via another LEC's end office. In addition, except as otherwise provided in this Interim Agreement, neither Party shall deliver traffic destined to terminate at an end office subtending the other Party's access tandem via another LEC's access tandem. Either Party may deliver traffic destined to terminate at the other Party's end office via another LEC's tandem provided that the Parties have established transiting compensation agreement(s) specific to this arrangement.
- 3.6 Connection to a Party's local tandem(s) will provide the connecting Party local accessibility to a Party's end offices and NXXs which subtend that tandem(s), and to other LECs which are connected to that tandem(s). Connection to a Party's EO(s) will provide the connecting Party accessibility only to the NXXs served by that individual EO(s) to which the connecting Party interconnects.
- 3.7 Connection to a Party's access tandem will provide the connecting Party interexchange access to the first Party's end offices, IXC's, LEC's and WSP's which are connected to that tandem.
- 3.8 Notwithstanding the preceding provisions within Section 3, AMERITECH WISCONSIN agrees to transit and switch all traffic as necessary routed by NextGen to AMERITECH WISCONSIN over currently established (as of the Effective Date) trunk groups subject to the following limitations:
  - 3.8.1 All architectures for originating and terminating traffic must be reconfigured to reflect routing as defined by Telcordia guidelines, the LERG and Bellcore Notes on the Network within one year of the Effective Date. At the end of this one year period, AMERITECH WISCONSIN and NextGen shall disconnect all network architectures between the Parties that are inconsistent with Telcordia guidelines, the LERG and Bellcore Notes on the Network.
  - 3.8.2 NextGen may not augment the number of trunk groups it has in place as of the Effective Date, unless such trunk groups are used for Operator Services, Directory Assistance, LIDB or 911 Services, pursuant to a separate Agreement. If additional trunk groups are required, such trunk groups shall be configured to reflect routing as defined by Telcordia Guidelines, the LERG and Bellcore Notes on the Network.

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- 3.8.3 NextGen shall route all of its originating intraLATA and interLATA toll calls to an IXC that will deliver such calls to the called party.
- 3.8.4 For any calls routed through AMERITECH WISCONSIN's tandem (e.g. Local, ELCA,) other than intraLATA and interLATA IXC under this Interim Agreement, a maximum of ten (10) Central Offices will be allowed to subtend AMERITECH WISCONSIN's tandem (routed to AMERITECH WISCONSIN by NextGen) that normally should not subtend AMERITECH WISCONSIN's tandem. These Central Offices are Boyceville, Clear Lake, Deer park, Green Lake, Green Valley, Hammond, Knapp New Richmond, Prairie Farm and Wheeler. The total traffic volume for ELCA and wireless traffic shall not exceed one DS1 equivalent.
- 3.8.5 If NextGen utilizes the switch of another telecommunications carrier ("ALT-LEC"), to switch NextGen's calls, NextGen must provide the following as separate and distinct from ALT-LEC in order to identify elements specific to NextGen's architecture, apart from ALT-LEC's architectural elements:
- 3.8.5.1 OCN
  - 3.8.5.2 ACNA
  - 3.8.5.3 Trunk Groups with unique Trunk CLLI codes
  - 3.8.5.4 LRN (NextGen will not be required to establish an LRN until NextGen implements Local Number Portability.)
  - 3.8.5.5 Point Code, or may use the Point Code of ALT-LEC switch, only if each entity (LEC and ALT-LEC) does not duplicate TCIC codes on the separate and distinct trunk groups maintained by each carrier. It is the responsibility of LEC and ALT-LEC to inventory the numbering of TCIC codes on the trunk groups unique to each entity.
  - 3.8.5.6 Switch CLLI/Pseudo Switch CLLI
- 3.8.6 Other than as specified above, traffic routed outside of the mutual agreement of the Parties shall be blocked by AMERITECH WISCONSIN upon one (1) week's notification by AMERITECH WISCONSIN to NextGen. NextGen explicitly agrees to AMERITECH WISCONSIN's right to block the traffic in accordance with the previous sentence.
- 3.8.7 AMERITECH WISCONSIN shall not compensate ALT-LEC or NextGen for Local, ELCA, Toll, IXC or any other traffic that is inappropriately routed outside the mutual agreement of the Parties. Any compensation due AMERITECH WISCONSIN for such traffic routed outside the mutual agreement of the Parties shall be paid by NextGen. This also includes traffic that is destined to end offices that do not subtend AMERITECH WISCONSIN's tandem.

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#### 4. IDENTIFICATION OF TRAFFIC

- 4.1 Intentionally Omitted.
- 4.2 For purposes of computing compensation only, and not for purposes of routing traffic on the network, traffic will be segregated within the recording and billing systems on a jurisdictional basis as either Toll or Transiting in nature. To the extent available, AMERITECH WISCONSIN shall provide NextGen with terminating access records for toll traffic.
- 4.3 The type of originating calling number transmitted depends on the protocol of the trunk signaling in use. Traditional toll protocol will be used with Multi-Frequency (MF) or SS7 signaling, and ANI will be sent from the originating Party's end office switch to the terminating Party's tandem or end office switch.
- 4.4 Each Party will include, where available, in the information transmitted to the other for each call being terminated on and/or transiting the other's network the originating Calling Party Number (CPN).
- 4.5 When one Party is passing CPN but the other party is not properly receiving information, the Parties will cooperate to jurisdictionalize and rate the traffic correctly.
- 4.6 When CPN is technically available in a Parties switch, all calls originated in that switch by one Party and passed without CPN to the other Party, may be billed by the terminating party as switched access.
- 4.7 Calls involving telephone numbers assigned to one exchange rate center, as referenced in the LERG, but where the end-user customer is located in another exchange rate center, shall be considered as either FX or FGA. These arrangements, and their compensation, are to be handled in separate agreements.
- 4.8 Nothing in this Interim Agreement shall be construed to limit or otherwise adversely impact in any manner either Party's right to employ or to request and be assigned any NANP number resources including, but not limited to, central office (NXX) codes pursuant to the Central Office Code Assignment Guidelines, or to establish, by tariff or otherwise, Exchanges and Rating Points corresponding to such NXX codes. Each Party is responsible for administering the NXX codes it is assigned to ensure compliance with the industry-approved Central Office Code (NXX) Assignment Guidelines (April 1997) and the FCC's Second Report & Order in CC Docket 95-116, released August 18, 1997 (Local Number Portability). Both Parties shall obtain separate NXX codes for each and every rate center in which they choose to operate. This will enable NextGen and AMERITECH WISCONSIN to identify the jurisdictional nature of traffic for intercompany compensation until such time as both

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Parties have implemented billing and routing capabilities to determine traffic jurisdiction on a basis other than NXX codes.

## **5. LOCAL ELCA TRAFFIC**

5.1 The Parties acknowledge that ELCA traffic does not exist between the Parties at this time and within the scope of this Interim Agreement. Both Parties agree to update and amend this Interim Agreement within ninety (90) days upon the commencement of any such calling arrangement. Notwithstanding, such calling arrangements do exist between the Parties and third parties, and the Parties agree to Transit such traffic pursuant to the terms and conditions of Section 6 Transiting Traffic.

### **5.2 MANDATORY TWO-WAY LOCAL EAS**

5.2.1 The Parties acknowledge that mandatory two-way local EAS traffic does not exist between the Parties at this time and within the scope of this Interim Agreement. Both Parties agree to update and amend this Interim Agreement within 90 days upon the commencement of any such calling arrangement. Notwithstanding, such calling arrangements do exist between the Parties and third parties, and the Parties agree to Transit such traffic pursuant to the terms and conditions of Section 6 Transiting Traffic.

### **5.3 OPTIONAL ONE-WAY LOCAL EAS**

5.3.1 The Parties acknowledge that mandatory and optional local EAS traffic does not exist between the Parties at this time and within the scope of this Interim Agreement. Both Parties agree to update and amend this Interim Agreement within 90 days upon the commencement of any such calling arrangement. Notwithstanding, such calling arrangements do exist between the Parties and third parties, and the Parties agree to Transit such traffic pursuant to the terms and conditions of Section 6 Transiting Traffic.

### **5.4 OPTIONAL TWO-WAY LOCAL EAS**

5.4.1 The Parties to this agreement acknowledge that optional two-way local EAS traffic does not exist between the Parties at this time and within the scope of this Interim Agreement. Both Parties agree to update and amend this Interim Agreement within 90 days upon the commencement of any such calling arrangement. Notwithstanding, such calling arrangements do exist between the Parties and third parties, and the Parties agree to Transit such traffic pursuant to the terms and conditions of Section 6 Transiting Traffic.

## **6. TRANSITING TRAFFIC**

6.1 Transiting traffic will include, but not be limited to, wireless and ELCA traffic

originating on a Party's network which Transits the other Party's facilities and is delivered to a third party such as a Wireless Service Provider or another Local Exchange Carrier.

- 6.2 The "Transit Traffic" rates set forth in Exhibit A applies to wireless and ELCA traffic that originates on one Party's network, Transits the other Party's facilities (the transiting party) and terminates to a third party.
- 6.3 All other traffic not defined in Sections 6.1 and 6.2, which Transits a tandem shall be treated as toll traffic subject to Meet-Point Billing and will be subject to compensation as provided in Exhibit A, unless otherwise agreed.
- 6.4 Before Transit traffic through the Tandem from a Party to another Local Exchange Carrier, CLEC or wireless carrier requires at least 24 trunks, that Party shall establish a direct End Office trunk group between itself and the other Local Exchange Carrier, CLEC or wireless carrier. When a transiting Party is requested by the tandem owner to establish direct trunking to other carriers, that Party shall establish and route their traffic over these facilities within 120 days of the request. Exceptions may be permitted if technological limitations or facility shortages exist. If the requested Party fails to establish or migrate their transiting traffic as requested, then the billing for such traffic will be in accordance with traffic trunk equivalent ("TTE") rates below in Section 6.5.
- 6.5 The Parties agree that transiting traffic whose volumes exceed 74,330 MOUs per month in one direction to any single terminating CLLI (this is the equivalent of 12 trunks of originating traffic in a 24 two-way trunk group) will be billed for the transiting function on the basis of a trunk equivalent charge instead of the MOU rate. The rate for this usage will be based on a per trunk equivalent charge of \$71.34 per month for each originating traffic trunk equivalent. The originating TTE is calculated by assuming that transit traffic destined to any single CLLI is moved into its own unique trunk group. That trunk group is then sized based on the monthly MOU destined to that single CLLI. The TTE will be the basis of compensation for the transiting function associated with traffic sent by the originating party to the specific CLLI until the transit traffic is removed from the tandem onto direct facilities of the originating Party. All other transiting traffic will be billed at the appropriate rates as described in Section 6.4.

## **7. INTRASTATE INTRALATA INTERCOMPANY TRAFFIC**

Traffic which originates from one of the Party's End Users and terminates to the other Party's End Users within the same LATA, is not associated with Wireless Service Providers, and is not specifically identified as any other traffic classification will be considered Intrastate IntraLATA for purposes of this Interim Agreement and is subject to compensation at Intrastate IntraLATA rates. For intrastate intraLATA traffic between the Parties' End Users, compensation for termination of such traffic to End Users on the

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Parties' networks will be at each Party's terminating access rates for Message Telephone Service (MTS) and originating access rates for 800 Service or 800 like toll-free incoming service. Such rates are set forth in Attachment A.

## **8. GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES**

- 8.1 Each Party to this Interim Agreement will be responsible for the accuracy and quality of its data as submitted to the other Party.
- 8.2 The type of originating calling number transmitted depends on the protocol of the trunk signaling used for interconnection. Traditional protocol will be used with Multi-Frequency (MF) and SS7 signaling, and ANI will be sent from the originating Party's end office switch to the terminating Party's tandem or end office switch.
- 8.3 Where one Party is passing calling party number (CPN) but the other Party is not properly receiving information, the Parties will cooperate to jurisdictionalize and rate the traffic correctly. Each Party is individually responsible to provide facilities within its network that are necessary for routing, transporting, measuring, and billing traffic from the other Party's network and for delivering such traffic to the other Party's network in the standard format as referenced in Telcordia Technologies BOC Notes on LEC Networks Practice No. SR-TSV-002275, and to terminate the traffic it receives in that standard format to the proper address on its network. The Parties are each solely responsible for participation in and compliance with national network plans, including the National Network Security Plan and the Emergency Preparedness Plan.
- 8.4 The Parties shall exchange technical descriptions and forecasts of their Interconnection and traffic requirements in sufficient detail necessary to establish the Interconnections required to assure traffic completion to and from all End Users in their respective designated service areas.
- 8.5 Each Party is responsible to input required data into Routing Data Base Systems (RDBS) and into the Telcordia Technologies Rating Administrative Data Systems (BRADS) or other appropriate system(s) necessary to update the LERG unless negotiated otherwise.
- 8.6 Neither Party shall use any of the services provided in this Interim Agreement in any manner that interferes with other persons in the use of their service, prevents other persons from using their service, or otherwise impairs the quality of service to other carriers or to either Party's end users, and either Party may discontinue or refuse service for so long as the other Party is violating this provision. Upon such violation, either Party shall provide the other Party notice of the violation at the earliest practicable time.
- 8.7 Each Party is solely responsible for the services it provides to its End Users and to

other telecommunications carriers.

- 8.8 Upon LEC signature, LEC shall provide AMERITECH WISCONSIN with LEC's state-specific authorized and nationally recognized OCN/AECN for Interconnection.
- 8.9 The Parties acknowledge that traffic may be originated by one Party ("Originating Party"), sent over the facilities of the other Party ("Transited Party") and destined for termination on a third parties network ("Terminating Party"). The Parties further acknowledge that the Originating Party should establish a traffic exchange agreement directly with the Terminating Party to handle direct payment of applicable compensation owed by the Originating Party to the Terminating Party for terminating the transiting traffic. If transiting traffic is sent and the Terminating Party makes a claim for compensation against the Transited Party, the Transited Party will notify both the Originating Party and the Terminating Party that they need to resolve the matter between themselves. The Originating Party agrees to promptly pay and/or resolve, directly with the Terminating Party, any claim the Transited Party forwards to it in which a Terminating Party demands compensation. In addition, the Originating Party will, upon receiving such notification, use its good faith reasonable efforts to negotiate promptly a traffic exchange agreement with the Terminating Party if such agreement does not already exist. If so notified, the Originating Party will also indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Transited Party against claims by the Terminating Party, for terminating compensation, plus reasonable attorneys' fees. The Originating Party will also pay the Transited Party transiting compensation under this Interim Agreement. The Originating Party's indemnity obligations under this paragraph for terminating compensation shall not exceed the lesser of the amount that the Originating Party or the Transited Party would have to pay the Terminating Party for similar traffic if the traffic were originated by the Transited Party or Originating Party and terminated to the Terminating Party. In the event of litigation or a regulatory proceeding related to this paragraph, the Transited Party agrees to permit the Originating Party to participate as a party to such proceeding.
- 8.10 Each Party shall be responsible for labor relations with its own employees. Each Party agrees to notify the other Party as soon as practicable whenever such Party has knowledge that a labor dispute concerning its employees is delaying or threatens to delay such Party's timely performance of its obligations under this Interim Agreement and shall endeavor to minimize impairment of service to the other Party (for example, by using its management personnel to perform work or by other means) in the event of a labor dispute to the extent permitted by Applicable Law.
- 8.11 Each Party shall act in good faith in its performance under this Interim Agreement and, in each case in which a Party's consent or agreement is required or requested hereunder, such Party shall not unreasonably withhold or delay such consent or agreement.

- 8.12 End-User Fraud: The Parties shall work cooperatively to minimize fraud associated with third-number billed calls, calling card calls, and any other services related to this Interim Agreement. The Parties shall not be liable to one another for any fraud associated with the other Parties End User's account, including 1+ IntraLATA toll, ported numbers, and Alternate Billing Service (ABS). ABS is a service that allows End Users to bill calls to account(s) that might not be associated with the originating line. There are three types of ABS calls: calling card, collect, and third number billed calls.
- 8.13 Billing: Unless otherwise stated, each Party will render a monthly bill to the other for Service(s) provided hereunder and as set forth in applicable Commission-ordered tariffs or other documents specifically referenced herein and, as applicable, as agreed upon by the Parties or authorized by a Party. Remittance in full will be due within thirty (30) business days of that billing date. Interest shall apply on overdue amounts at the rate specified in Section 11, unless otherwise specified in an applicable Commission-ordered tariff. Each Party reserves the right to net nondisputed delinquent amounts against amounts otherwise due the other Party, provided that the disputing party follows the procedures set forth in Section 12 of this Interim Agreement.
- 8.14 Headings. The headings and numbering of Sections, Parts, Appendices, Schedules and Exhibits to this Interim Agreement are for convenience only and shall not be construed to define or limit any of the terms herein or affect the meaning or interpretation of this Interim Agreement.
- 8.15 Referenced Documents. Unless the context shall otherwise specifically require, and subject to the Intervening Law provision in this Interim Agreement, whenever any provision of this Interim Agreement refers to a technical reference, technical publication, CLEC Practice, AMERITECH WISCONSIN Practice, any publication of telecommunications industry administrative or technical standards, or any other document specifically incorporated into this Interim Agreement (collectively "Referenced Instrument"), it will be deemed to be a reference to the then-current version or edition (including any amendments, supplements, addenda, or successors) of each Referenced Instrument that is in effect.
- 8.16 Tariff References. Wherever any Commission ordered tariff provision or rate is cited or quoted herein, it is understood that said cite encompasses any revisions or modifications to said tariff. Wherever any Commission ordered tariff provision or rate is incorporated, cited or quoted herein, it is understood that said incorporation or reference applies only to the entity within the state whose Commission ordered that tariff. Should such services and facilities be modified by tariff or by Order, including any modifications resulting from other Commission proceedings, federal court review or other judicial action, the Parties shall cooperate with one another for the purpose of incorporating required modifications, if any are deemed required, into this Interim Agreement. Except for those Interim Agreement provisions which

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specifically reference a tariff, in the event of a conflict between tariff and this Interim Agreement, the terms and conditions of this Interim Agreement shall supersede and control.

## **9. FORCE MAJEURE**

- 9.1 Neither Party shall be liable for any delay or failure in performance of any part of this Interim Agreement from any cause beyond its control and without its fault or negligence including, without limitation, acts of nature, acts of civil or military authority, government regulations, embargoes, terrorist acts, riots, fires, explosions, earthquakes, nuclear accidents, floods, work stoppages, cable cuts (except for cable cuts directly caused by AMERITECH WISCONSIN's employees or contractors), power blackouts, other major environmental disturbances, unusually severe weather conditions, inability to secure products or services of other persons or transportation facilities or acts or omissions of transportation carriers. In such event, the Party affected shall, upon giving prompt notice to the other Party, be excused from such performance on a day-to-day basis to the extent of such interference (and the other Party shall likewise be excused from performance of its obligations on a day-for-day basis to the extent such Party's obligations are dependent upon the performance so interfered with). The affected Party shall use its best efforts to avoid or remove the cause of nonperformance and both Parties shall proceed to perform with dispatch once the causes are removed or cease.

## **10. AUDITS**

- 10.1 Upon reasonable written notice and at its own expense, each Party or its authorized representative (providing such authorized representative does not have a conflict of interest related to other matters before one of the Parties) ("Auditing Party") shall have the right to conduct an audit of the other Party ("Audited Party") in order to verify the accuracy of billing, provided that neither Party may request more than one such audit within any twelve (12) month period. This includes on-site audits at the Audited Party's or the Audited Party's vendor locations. Each Party, whether or not in connection with an audit, shall maintain reasonable records for a minimum of twenty-four (24) months and shall cooperate fully in any audit, providing the other Party with reasonable access to such information as is necessary to determine the accuracy of the Audited Party's bills. Each Party's right to access information for audit purposes is limited to data not in excess of twenty-four (24) months in age.
- 10.2 The audit should be performed by independent certified public accountants or independent third parties with knowledge of the telecom industry ("Auditors") selected and paid for by the Auditing Party. The Auditors shall be reasonably acceptable to the Audited Party. Prior to commencing the audit, the Auditors shall execute an agreement with the Audited Party in a form reasonably acceptable to the Audited Party that protects the confidentiality of the information disclosed by the

Audited Party to the accountants. The audit shall take place at a time and place agreed upon by the Parties.

- 10.3 The Parties will exercise mutual cooperation in an effort to limit the Auditors' physical presence on the Audited Party's premises to a commercially reasonable period of time. This shall in no way limit the Audited Party's obligation to provide access or information under Section 10.1, above.

## **11. DISPUTED AMOUNTS**

- 11.1 If one Party disputes a billing statement issued by the other Party, the billed Party shall notify the billing Party in writing regarding the nature and the basis of the dispute within six months of the statement date, or the dispute shall be waived. The Parties shall diligently work toward resolution of all billing issues.
- 11.2 If any undisputed amount due on the billing statement is not received by the billing Party on the payment due date, the billing Party may charge interest on the past due balance at a rate equal to the lesser of (1) the interest rates set forth in the Applicable State Commission-ordered access tariffs or (2) one and one-half percent (1 ½ %) per month or the maximum allowable rate of interest under applicable state law. Late payment charges shall be included on the next statement.

## **12. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

- 12.1 The Parties desire to resolve disputes arising out of this Interim Agreement without litigation. Accordingly, the Parties agree to use the following Dispute Resolution procedures with respect to any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Interim Agreement or its breach.
- 12.2 Dispute Resolution shall commence upon one Party's receipt of written notice of a controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Interim Agreement or its breach. No Party may pursue any claim unless such written notice has first been given to the other Party.
- 12.3 Except as otherwise specifically provided for in this Interim Agreement, no claim may be brought for any dispute arising under this Interim Agreement more than twelve (12) months from the date on which the occurrence that gives rise to the dispute is discovered or reasonably should have been discovered with the exercise of due care and attention.
- 12.4 Informal Dispute Resolution. Upon receipt by one Party of notice of a dispute by the other Party pursuant to this Interim Agreement, each Party will appoint a knowledgeable, responsible representative to meet and negotiate in good faith to resolve any dispute arising under this Interim Agreement. The location, form, frequency, duration, and conclusion of these discussions will be left to the discretion

of the representatives. Upon Interim Agreement, the representatives may utilize other alternative Dispute Resolution procedures such as mediation to assist in the negotiations. Discussions and the correspondence among the representatives for purposes of settlement are exempt from discovery and production and will not be admissible in the arbitration described below or in any lawsuit without the concurrence of both Parties. Documents identified in or provided with such communications that were not prepared for purposes of the negotiations are not so exempted, and, if otherwise admissible, may be admitted in evidence in the arbitration or lawsuit.

12.5 **Formal Dispute Resolution.** If the Parties are unable to resolve the dispute through the informal procedure described in Section 12.4 above then either Party may invoke the formal Dispute Resolution procedures described in this Section. Unless agreed among all Parties, formal Dispute Resolution procedures, including arbitration or other procedures as appropriate, may be invoked not earlier than sixty (60) calendar days after receipt of the letter initiating Dispute Resolution under Section 12.1 above.

12.6 Claims subject to Mandatory binding arbitration: The following claims, if not settled through informal dispute resolution, will be subject to binding arbitration pursuant to this Section:

12.6.1 Each unresolved billing dispute involving one (1) percent or less of the amounts charged to the Disputing Party under this Interim Agreement in the state in which the dispute arises during the twelve (12) months immediately preceding receipt of the letter initiating Dispute Resolution under Section 12.1 above. If the disputing Party has not been billed for a minimum of twelve (12) months immediately preceding receipt of the letter initiating Dispute Resolution, the Parties will annualize the actual numbers of months billed.

12.7 Claims Subject to Elective Arbitration. Claims will be subject to elective Arbitration pursuant to Section 12.9 below if, and only if, the claim is not settled through informal Dispute Resolution and both Parties agree to arbitration. If both Parties do not agree to arbitration, then either Party may proceed with any remedy available to it pursuant to law, equity or agency mechanism.

12.8 Claims Not Subject to Arbitration. If the following claims are not resolved through informal Dispute Resolution, they will not be subject to arbitration and must be resolved through any remedy available to a Party pursuant to law, equity or agency mechanism: a) any action seeking a temporary restraining order or injunction related to the purposes of this Interim Agreement; b) all claims arising under federal or state statute(s), including but not limited to, any antitrust and/or deceptive trade practices claims; and c) actions to compel compliance with this Dispute Resolution process.



12.9 Arbitration. Disputes subject to mandatory or elective arbitration under the provisions of this Interim Agreement will be submitted to a single arbitrator pursuant to the Commercial Arbitration Rules of the American Arbitration Association or pursuant to such other provider of arbitration services or rules as the Parties may agree. The arbitrator shall be knowledgeable of telecommunications issues. Each arbitration will be held in Chicago, Illinois, as appropriate, unless the Parties agree otherwise. The arbitrator will control the scheduling so as to process the matter expeditiously. The Parties may submit written briefs upon a schedule determined by the arbitrator. The Parties will request that the arbitrator rule on the dispute by issuing a written opinion within thirty (30) calendar days after the close of hearings. The Federal Arbitration Act, 9 U.S.C. Secs. 1-16, not state law, shall govern the arbitrability of all disputes. The arbitrator will have no authority to award punitive damages, exemplary damages, Consequential Damages, multiple damages, or any other damages not measured by the prevailing Party's actual damages, and may not, in any event, make any ruling, finding or award that does not conform to the terms and conditions of this Interim Agreement. The times specified in this Section may be extended or shortened upon mutual agreement of the Parties or by the arbitrator upon a showing of good cause. Each Party will bear its own costs of these procedures, including attorneys' fees. The Parties will equally split the fees of the arbitration and the arbitrator. The arbitrator's award shall be final and binding and may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. Judgment upon the award rendered by the arbitrator may be entered in any court having jurisdiction.

### **13. NOTICES**

13.1 Any notice to a Party required or permitted under this Interim Agreement shall be in writing and shall be: (a) delivered personally; (b) delivered by express overnight delivery service; (c) mailed, via certified mail or first class U.S. Postal Service, with postage prepaid, and a return receipt requested; or (d) delivered by facsimile; provided that a paper copy is also sent via methods (a), (b) or (c) of this Section. Notices will be deemed given as of the earliest of: the date of actual receipt; the next Business Day when sent via express overnight delivery service; five (5) calendar days after mailing in the case of first class or certified U.S. Postal Service, or on the date set forth on the confirmation produced by the sending facsimile machine when delivered by facsimile prior to 5:00 p.m. in the recipient's time zone, but the next Business Day when delivered by facsimile at 5:00 p.m. or later in the recipient's time zone. Notices will be addressed to the Parties as follows:

NOTICE CONTACT	NEXTGEN COMMUNICATIONS, LLC CONTACT	AMERITECH WISCONSIN(s) CONTACT
NAME/TITLE	Interconnection Administrator	Contract Administration ATTN: Notices Manager
STREET ADDRESS	316 Third Street	311 S. Akard, 9 <sup>th</sup> Floor Four Bell Plaza
CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE	Clear Lake, WI 54005	Dallas, TX 75202-5398
TELEPHONE NUMBER	715-263-2755	
FAX NUMBER	715-263-2267	214-464-2006

13.2 Either Party may unilaterally change its designated contact, address, telephone number and/or facsimile number for the receipt of notices by giving written notice to the other Party in compliance with this Section. Any notice to change the designated contact, address, telephone and/or facsimile number for the receipt of notices shall be deemed effective ten (10) calendar days following receipt by the other Party.

### 13.3 NOTICE OF CHANGES

13.3.1 Nothing in this Interim Agreement shall limit either Party's ability to upgrade its network through the incorporation of new equipment, new software or otherwise. If a Party makes a change in its network which will materially affect the interoperability of its network with the other Party, the Party making the change shall provide reasonable advance written notice of such change to the other Party at least 180 days prior to implementation. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in no event shall either Party be required to provide greater advance notice than the notice required of ILECs under the Network Disclosure rules adopted by the FCC in CC Docket No. 96-98, Second Report and Order, codified at 47 C.F.R. 51.325 through 51.335, as such rules may be amended from time to time.

## 14. PUBLICITY AND USE OF TRADEMARKS OR SERVICE MARKS

14.1 The Parties agree not to use in any advertising or sales promotion, press releases, or other publicity matters any endorsements, direct or indirect quotes, or pictures implying endorsement by the other Party or any of its employees without such Party's prior written approval. The Parties will submit to each other for written approval, prior to publication, all publicity matters that mention or display one another's name and/or marks or contain language from which a connection to said name and/or marks may be inferred or implied; the Party to whom a request is directed shall respond promptly. Nothing herein, however, shall be construed as preventing either Party from publicly stating the fact that it has executed this Interim Agreement with the other Party.

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- 14.2 Nothing in this Interim Agreement shall grant, suggest, or imply any authority for one Party to use the name, trademarks, service marks, logos, proprietary trade dress or trade names of the other Party in any advertising, press releases, publicity matters, marketing and/or promotional materials or for any other commercial purpose without prior written approval from such other Party.

## **15. CONFIDENTIALITY**

- 15.1 All information, including but not limited to specifications, microfilm, photocopies, magnetic disks, magnetic tapes, drawings, sketches, models, samples, tools, technical information, data, employee records, maps, financial reports, and market data; (i) furnished by one Party (the "Disclosing Party") to the other Party (the "Receiving Party") dealing with customer-specific, facility-specific, or usage-specific information, other than customer information communicated for the purpose of publication or directory database inclusion, 911, call processing, billing or settlement or as otherwise mutually agreed upon; or (ii) in written, graphic, electromagnetic, or other tangible form and marked at the time of delivery as "Confidential" or "Proprietary;" or (iii) communicated orally and declared to the Receiving Party at the time of delivery, or by written notice given to the Receiving Party within ten (10) days after declaration to be "Confidential" or "Proprietary" (collectively referred to as "Proprietary Information"), shall be considered confidential and proprietary and remain the property of the Disclosing Party.

- 15.2 Upon request by the Disclosing Party, the Receiving Party shall return all tangible copies of Proprietary Information, whether written, graphic, or otherwise. In the event of the expiration or termination of this Interim Agreement for any reason whatsoever, each Party shall return to the other Party or destroy all Proprietary Information and other documents, work papers and other material (including all copies thereof) obtained from the other Party in connection with this Interim Agreement. Notwithstanding, the Receiving Party may retain one copy of Confidential and/or Proprietary Information for dispute purposes for the dispute period described in Section 12.3. If the Receiving Party fails to raise a dispute during said dispute period, the Proprietary Information shall be returned or destroyed.

- 15.3 Each Party shall keep all the other Party's Proprietary Information confidential in the same manner in which it keeps its own Proprietary Information confidential, and shall use the other Party's Proprietary Information only for performing the covenants contained in the Interim Agreement and shall disclose such Proprietary Information only to those employees, contractors, agents or Affiliates who have a need to know. Neither Party shall use the other Party's Proprietary Information for any other purpose except upon such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon between the Parties in writing.

- 15.4 Unless otherwise agreed, the obligations of confidentiality and nonuse set forth in

the Interim Agreement do not apply to such Proprietary Information that:

- (a) was at the time of receipt, already known to the Receiving Party, free of any obligation to keep confidential and evidenced by written records prepared prior to delivery by the Disclosing Party;
- (b) is, or becomes publicly known through no wrongful act of the receiving Party;
- (c) is rightfully received from a third person having no direct or indirect secrecy or confidentiality obligation to the Disclosing Party with respect to such information;
- (d) is independently developed by an employee, agent, or contractor of the Receiving Party which individual is not involved in any manner with the provision of services pursuant to the Interim Agreement and does not have any direct or indirect access to the Proprietary Information;
- (e) is disclosed to a third person by the Disclosing Party without similar restrictions on such third person's rights;
- (f) is approved for release by written authorization of the Disclosing Party;
- (g) is required to be made public by the Receiving Party pursuant to applicable law or regulation provided that the Receiving Party shall provide the Disclosing Party with written notice of such requirement as soon as possible and prior to such disclosure. The Disclosing Party may then seek appropriate protective relief from all or part of such requirement or, if it fails to successfully do so, it shall be deemed to have waived the Receiving Party's obligation of confidentiality and nonuse set forth in the Interim Agreement with respect to such Confidential and/or Proprietary Information. The Receiving Party shall use all commercially reasonable efforts to cooperate with the Disclosing Party in attempting to obtain any protective relief which such Disclosing Party chooses to obtain.
- (h) is requested by a regulatory agency, provided that the Receiving Party has obtained an appropriate order for protective relief or other reliable assurance that confidential treatment shall be accorded to such Confidential and/or Proprietary Information, and the Receiving Party provides the Disclosing Party with written notice of such request as soon as possible and prior to such disclosure. The Disclosing Party may then seek appropriate protective relief from all or part of such requirement or, if it fails to successfully do so, it shall be deemed to have waived the Receiving Party's obligation of confidentiality and nonuse set forth in the Interim Agreement with respect to such Confidential and/or Proprietary Information. The Receiving Party shall use all commercially reasonable efforts to cooperate with the Disclosing Party in attempting to obtain any protective relief which such Disclosing Party chooses to obtain.
- (i) is made available to other parties pursuant to Section 8.10 provisions.

- 15.5 The obligation of confidentiality and use with respect to Confidential Information disclosed by one Party to the other shall survive any termination of this Interim Agreement for a period of three (3) years from the date of the initial disclosure of the Confidential Information.
- 15.6 The Parties agree that an impending or existing violation of any provision of this Section would cause the Disclosing Party irreparable injury for which it would have no adequate remedy at law, and agree that Disclosing Party shall be entitled to obtain immediate injunctive relief prohibiting such violation, in addition to any other rights and remedies available to it at law or in equity, including both specific performance and monetary damages. In the event of any breach of this Section for which legal or equitable relief is sought, all reasonable attorney's fees and other reasonable costs associated therewith shall be recoverable by the prevailing Party.

## **16. GOVERNING LAW**

- 16.1 Unless otherwise provided by Applicable Law, this Interim Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the Act, the FCC Rules and Regulations interpreting the Act and other applicable federal law. To the extent that federal law would apply state law in interpreting this Interim Agreement, the domestic laws of the state in which the Interconnection, functions, facilities, products and Services at issue are furnished or sought shall apply, without regard to that state's conflict of laws principles. The Parties submit to personal jurisdiction in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and waive any and all objection to any such venue.

## 16.2 Non-Voluntary Provisions

16.2.1 This Interim Agreement incorporates certain rates, terms and conditions that were not voluntarily negotiated by AMERITECH WISCONSIN, but instead resulted from determinations made in arbitrations under Section 252 of the Act or from other requirements of regulatory agencies or state law (individually and collectively, a "Non-Voluntary Arrangement"). AMERITECH WISCONSIN has identified some, but not all, of the Non-Voluntary Arrangements contained in this Interim Agreement, by designating such provisions with asterisks. If any Non-Voluntary Arrangement is modified as a result of any order or finding by the FCC, the appropriate Commission or a court of competent jurisdiction, any Party may, by providing written notice to the other Party, require that any affected Non-Voluntary Arrangement (and any related rates, terms and conditions) be deleted or renegotiated, as applicable, in good faith and this Interim Agreement amended accordingly. If such modifications to this Interim Agreement are not executed within sixty (60) calendar days after the date of such notice, a Party may pursue its rights under Section 17, Dispute Resolution.

16.2.2 The Parties acknowledge that the Non-Voluntary Arrangements contained in this Interim Agreement shall not be available in any state other than the state that originally imposed/required such Non-Voluntary Arrangement. By way of example only, the Parties acknowledge that the PUCO's imposition in Ohio of the Minimum Telephone Service Standards (and all terms and conditions relating thereto) shall not apply in or be "portable to" any state other than Ohio.

## 16.3 State-Specific Rates, Terms and Conditions

16.3.1 For ease of administration, this Interim Agreement contains certain specified rates, terms and conditions which apply only in a designated state ("**state-specific terms**"). To the extent that this Interim Agreement contains specified rates, terms and conditions which apply only in a given state, such rates, terms and conditions shall not apply and shall have no effect in any other state(s).

## 17. WORK PRODUCT

17.1 This Interim Agreement is the joint work product of the Parties and has been negotiated by the Parties and their respective counsel and shall be fairly interpreted in accordance with its terms and, in the event of any ambiguities, no inferences shall be drawn against either Party.

## 18. INTERVENING LAW

18.1 This Interim Agreement is entered into as a result of both private negotiation between the Parties and the incorporation of some of the results of arbitration by the Commissions. In the event that any of the rates, terms and/or conditions herein, or any of the laws or regulations that were the basis or rationale for such rates, terms and/or conditions in the Interim Agreement, are invalidated, modified or stayed by any action of any state or federal regulatory or legislative bodies or courts of competent jurisdiction, including but not limited to any decision by the Eighth Circuit relating to any of the costing/pricing rules adopted by the FCC in its First Report and Order, *In re: Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions in the Telecommunications Act of 1996*, 11 FCC Rcd 15499 (1996)(e.g., Section 51.501, et seq.), upon review and remand from the United States Supreme Court, in *AT&T Corp. v. Iowa Utilities Bd.*, 525 U.S. 366(1999) (and on remand *Iowa Utilities Board v. FCC*, 219 F.3d 744 (8<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2000) or *Ameritech v. FCC*, No. 98-1381, 1999 WL 116994, 1999 Lexis 3671 (June 1, 1999), the affected provision shall be immediately invalidated, modified, or stayed, consistent with the action of the legislative body, court, or regulatory agency upon the written request of either Party. In such event, the Parties shall expend diligent efforts to arrive at an agreement regarding the appropriate conforming modifications to the Interim Agreement. If negotiations fail, disputes between the Parties concerning the interpretation of the actions required or provisions affected by such governmental actions shall be resolved pursuant to the dispute resolution process provided for in this Interim Agreement. Without limiting the general applicability of the foregoing, the Parties acknowledge that on January 25, 1999, the United States Supreme Court issued its opinion in *AT&T Corp. v. Iowa Utilities Bd.*, 119 S. Ct. 721 (1999) and on June 1, 1999, the United States Supreme Court issued its opinion in *Ameritech v. FCC*, No. 98-1381, 1999 WL 116994, 1999 Lexis 3671 (1999). In addition, the Parties acknowledge that on November 5, 1999, the FCC issued its Third Report and Order and Fourth Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 96-96 (FCC 99-238), including the FCC's Supplemental Order issued *In the Matter of the Local Competition Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996*, in CC Docket No. 96-98 (FCC 99-370) (rel. November 24, 1999), portions of which become effective thirty (30) days following publication of such Order in the Federal Register (February 17, 2000) and other portions of which become effective 120 days following publication of such Order in the Federal Register (May 17, 2000). The Parties further acknowledge that on April 27, 2001, the FCC released its Order on Remand and Report and Order in CC Dockets No. 96-98 and 99-68, *In the Matter of the Local Competition Provisions in the Telecommunications Act of 1996; Inter-carrier Compensation for ISP-bound Traffic* (the "ISP Inter-carrier Compensation Order.") By executing this Interim Agreement and carrying out the inter-carrier compensation rates, terms and conditions herein, neither party waives any of its rights, and expressly reserves all of its rights, under the ISP Inter-carrier Compensation Order. The Parties further acknowledge and agree that by executing this Interim Agreement, neither Party waives any of its rights, remedies, or arguments with respect to such decisions and

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any remand thereof, including its right to seek legal review or a stay pending appeal of such decisions or its rights under this Intervening Law paragraph.

## **19. TAXES**

- 19.1 Each Party purchasing products or services hereunder shall pay or otherwise be responsible for all federal, state, or local sales, use, excise, gross receipts, transaction or similar taxes, fees, or surcharges (hereinafter "Tax") imposed on or with respect to the products or services provided by or to such Party, except for any Tax on either Party's corporate existence, status, or income. Whenever possible, these amounts shall be billed as a separate item on the invoice.
- 19.2 With respect to any purchase of services, facilities or other arrangements, if any Tax is required by applicable law to be collected from the purchasing Party by the providing Party, then: (i) the providing Party shall bill the purchasing party for such Tax; (ii) the purchasing Party shall remit such Tax to the providing party; and (iii) the providing Party shall remit such collected Tax to the applicable taxing authority. Failure to include Taxes on an invoice or to state a Tax separately shall not impair the obligation of the purchasing Party to pay any Tax. Nothing shall prevent the providing Party from paying any Tax to the appropriate taxing authority prior to the time: (1) it bills the purchasing Party for such Tax, or (2) it collects the Tax from the purchasing Party. Notwithstanding anything in this Interim Agreement to the contrary, the purchasing Party shall be liable for and the providing Party may collect Taxes which were assessed by or paid to an appropriate taxing authority within the statute of limitations period but not included on an invoice within four (4) years after the Tax otherwise was owed or due.
- 19.3 If the providing Party fails to bill or to collect any Tax as required herein, then, as between the providing Party and the purchasing Party: (i) the purchasing Party shall remain liable for such uncollected Tax; and (ii) the providing Party shall be liable for any penalty and interest assessed with respect to such uncollected Tax by such authority. However, if the purchasing Party fails to pay any Taxes properly billed, then, as between the providing Party and the purchasing Party, the purchasing Party will be solely responsible for payment of the Taxes, penalty and interest.
- 19.4 If the purchasing Party fails to impose and/or collect any Tax from End Users as required herein, then, as between the providing Party and the purchasing Party, the purchasing Party shall remain liable for such uncollected Tax and any interest and penalty assessed thereon with respect to the uncollected Tax by the applicable taxing authority. With respect to any Tax that the purchasing Party has agreed to pay or impose on and/or collect from End Users, the purchasing Party agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the providing Party for any costs incurred by the providing Party as a result of actions taken by the applicable taxing authority to collect the Tax from the providing Party due to the failure of the purchasing Party to pay or collect and remit such Tax to such authority.



- 19.5 If either Party is audited by a taxing authority or other Governmental Authority, the other Party agrees to reasonably cooperate with the Party being audited in order to respond to any audit inquiries in a proper and timely manner so that the audit and/or any resulting controversy may be resolved expeditiously.
- 19.6 With respect to any Tax or Tax controversy covered by this Section, the purchasing Party is entitled to contest with the imposing jurisdiction, pursuant to Applicable Law and at its own expense, any Tax that it is ultimately obligated to pay or collect. The purchasing Party will ensure that no lien is attached to any asset of the providing Party as a result of any contest. The purchasing Party shall be entitled to the benefit of any refund or recovery of amounts that it had previously paid resulting from such a contest. Amounts previously paid by the providing Party shall be refunded to the providing Party. The providing Party will cooperate in any such contest.

## **20. NON-ASSIGNMENT**

- 20.1 Except as provided in this paragraph, neither Party may assign or transfer (whether by operation of law or otherwise) this Interim Agreement (or any rights or obligations hereunder) to a third party without the prior written consent of the other Party; provided that each Party may assign this Interim Agreement to a corporate Affiliate or an entity under its common control or an entity acquiring all or substantially all of its assets or equity by providing prompt written notice to the other Party of such assignment or transfer. Any costs associated with updating either Party's accounts in the other Party's systems to accept the identity or name of the new entity shall be paid by the assigning Party prior to when such assignment shall be effective. Any attempted assignment or transfer that is not permitted is void ab initio. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, this Interim Agreement shall be binding upon and shall inure to the benefit of the Parties' respective successors and assigns.

## **21. NON-WAIVER**

- 21.1 Except as otherwise specified in this Interim Agreement, no waiver of any provision of this Interim Agreement and no consent to any default under this Interim Agreement shall be effective unless the same is in writing and properly executed by or on behalf of the Party against whom such waiver or consent is claimed. Waiver by either Party of any default by the other Party shall not be deemed a waiver of any other default. Failure of either Party to insist on performance of any term or condition of this Interim Agreement or to exercise any right or privilege hereunder shall not be construed as a continuing or future waiver of such term, condition, right or privilege. No course of dealing or failure of any Party to strictly enforce any term, right, or condition of this Interim Agreement in any instance shall be construed as a general waiver or relinquishment of such term, right or condition.

## **22. WARRANTIES**

22.1 EXCEPT AS EXPRESSLY PROVIDED UNDER THIS INTERIM AGREEMENT, NO PARTY MAKES OR RECEIVES ANY WARRANTY, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, WITH RESPECT TO THE INTERCONNECTION, FUNCTIONS, FACILITIES, PRODUCTS AND SERVICES IT PROVIDES UNDER OR IS CONTEMPLATED TO PROVIDE UNDER THIS INTERIM AGREEMENT AND EACH PARTY DISCLAIMS THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND/OR OF FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. ADDITIONALLY, NO PARTY TO THIS INTERIM AGREEMENT ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY WITH REGARD TO THE CORRECTNESS OF DATA OR INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY ANY OTHER PARTY TO THIS INTERIM AGREEMENT WHEN THIS DATA OR INFORMATION IS ACCESSED AND USED BY A THIRD PARTY.

## **23. INDEMNIFICATION**

23.1 Except as otherwise provided herein, each Party shall be responsible only for service(s) and facility(ies) which are provided by that Party, its authorized agents, subcontractors, or others retained by such parties and neither Party shall bear any responsibility for the service(s) and facility(ies) provided by the other Party, its agents, subcontractors, or others retained by such parties.

23.2 Except as otherwise provided herein, and to the extent not prohibited by law and not otherwise controlled by tariff, each Party (the "Indemnifying Party") shall release, defend and indemnify the other Party (the "Indemnified Party") and hold such Indemnified Party harmless against any loss to a third party arising out of the negligence or willful misconduct by such Indemnifying Party, its agents, its End Users, contractors, or others retained by such parties, in connection with the Indemnifying Party's provision of services or functions under this Interim Agreement, provided, however, that (i) with respect to employees or agents of the Indemnifying Party, such Fault occurs while performing within the scope of their employment, (ii) with respect to subcontractors of the Indemnifying Party, such Fault occurs in the course of performing duties of the subcontractor under its subcontract with the Indemnifying Party, and (iii) with respect to the Fault of employees or agents of such subcontractor, such Fault occurs while performing within the scope of their employment by the subcontractor with respect to such duties of the subcontractor under the subcontract.

23.3 In the case of any loss alleged or made by an End User of either Party, the Party whose End User alleged or made such loss ("Indemnifying Party") shall defend and indemnify the other Party ("Indemnified Party") against any and all such claims or loss by its End Users regardless of whether the underlying service or product was provided by, or unbundled network element was provisioned by, the Indemnified

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Party, unless the loss was caused by the gross negligence or intentional misconduct of the Indemnified Party.

23.4 Each Party shall be released, indemnified, defended and held harmless by the other Party ("Indemnifying Party") against any loss arising from the Indemnifying Party's use of services or elements provided under this Interim Agreement involving:

23.4.1 Any claim or Loss arising from such Indemnifying Party's use of products and services offered under this Interim Agreement, involving any Claim for libel, slander, invasion of privacy, or infringement of Intellectual Property rights arising from the Indemnifying Party's or its End User's use.

23.4.2 The foregoing includes any Claims or Losses arising from disclosure of any End User-specific information associated with either the originating or terminating numbers used to provision products or services provided hereunder and all other Claims arising out of any act or omission of the End User in the course of using any products or services provided pursuant to this Interim Agreement.

23.4.3 The foregoing includes any Losses arising from Claims for actual or alleged infringement of any Intellectual Property right of a Third Party to the extent that such Loss arises from an Indemnifying Party's or an Indemnifying Party's End User's use of products or services provided under this Interim Agreement; provided, however, that an Indemnifying Party's obligation to defend and indemnify the Indemnified Party shall not apply:

23.4.3.1 where an Indemnified Party or its End User modifies products or services; provided under this Interim Agreement; and

23.4.3.2 no infringement would have occurred without such modification.

23.4.4 This section includes, but is not limited to, suits arising from any act or omission of an End User in the course of using services or functions provided pursuant to this Interim Agreement.

23.5 Whenever a claim shall arise for indemnification under this Section, the relevant Indemnified Party, as appropriate, shall promptly notify the Indemnifying Party and request in writing the Indemnifying Party to defend the same. Failure to so notify the Indemnifying Party shall not relieve the Indemnifying Party of any liability that the Indemnifying Party might have, except to the extent that such failure prejudices the Indemnifying Party's ability to defend such claim.

23.6 The Indemnifying Party shall have the right to defend against such liability or assertion, in which event the Indemnifying Party shall give written notice to the Indemnified Party of acceptance of the defense of such claim and the identity of

counsel selected by the Indemnifying Party.

- 23.7 Until such time as Indemnifying Party provides written notice of acceptance of the defense of such claim, the Indemnified Party shall defend such claim, at the expense of the Indemnifying Party, subject to any right of the Indemnifying Party to seek reimbursement for the costs of such defense in the event that it is determined that Indemnifying Party had no obligation to indemnify the Indemnified Party for such claim.
- 23.8 Upon accepting the defense, the Indemnifying Party shall have exclusive right to control and conduct the defense and settlement of any such claims, subject to consultation with the Indemnified Party. So long as the Indemnifying Party is controlling and conducting the defense, the Indemnifying Party shall not be liable for any settlement by the Indemnified Party unless such Indemnifying Party has approved such settlement in advance and agrees to be bound by the agreement incorporating such settlement.
- 23.9 At any time, an Indemnified Party shall have the right to refuse a compromise or settlement, and, at such refusing Party's cost, to take over such defense; provided that, in such event the Indemnifying Party shall not be responsible for, nor shall it be obligated to indemnify the refusing Party against, any cost or liability in excess of such refused compromise or settlement.
- 23.10 With respect to any defense accepted by the Indemnifying Party, the Indemnified Party will be entitled to participate with the Indemnifying Party in such defense if the claim requests equitable relief or other relief that could affect the rights of the Indemnified Party, and shall also be entitled to employ separate counsel for such defense at such Indemnified Party's expense.
- 23.11 If the Indemnifying Party does not accept the defense of any indemnified claim as provided above, the Indemnified Party shall have the right to employ counsel for such defense at the expense of the Indemnifying Party.
- 23.12 In the event of a failure to assume the defense, the Indemnified Party may negotiate a settlement, which shall be presented to the Indemnifying Party. If the Indemnifying Party refuses to agree to the presented settlement, the Indemnifying Party may take over the defense. If the Indemnifying Party refuses to agree to the presented settlement and refuses to take over the defense, the Indemnifying Party shall be liable for any reasonable cash settlement not involving any admission of liability by the Indemnifying Party, though such settlement may have been made by the Indemnified Party without approval of the Indemnifying Party, it being the Parties' intent that no settlement involving a non-monetary concession by the Indemnifying Party, including an admission of liability by such Party, shall take effect without the written approval of the Indemnifying Party.

- 23.13 Each Party agrees to cooperate and to cause its employees and agents to cooperate with the other Party in the defense of any such claim and the relevant records of each Party shall be available to the other Party with respect to any such defense.

#### **24. LIMITATION OF LIABILITY**

- 24.1 Except for indemnity obligations expressly set forth herein, each Party's liability to the other Party for any Loss relating to or arising out of such Party's performance under this Interim Agreement, including any negligent act or omission (whether willful or inadvertent), whether in contract, tort or otherwise, including alleged breaches of this Interim Agreement and causes of action alleged to arise from allegations that breach of this Interim Agreement also constitute a violation of a statute, including the Act, shall not exceed in total the amount a Party has charged or would have charged to the other Party for the affected Interconnection, functions, facilities, products and service(s) that were not performed or were improperly performed.
- 24.2 Except for losses alleged or made by an End User of either Party and except as otherwise provided in specific appendices, in the case of any loss alleged or made by a third party arising under the negligence or willful misconduct of both Parties, each Party shall bear, and its obligation under this section shall be limited to, that portion (as mutually agreed to by the Parties) of the resulting expense caused by its own negligence or willful misconduct or that of its agents, servants, contractors, or others acting in aid or concert with it.
- 24.3 A Party may, in its sole discretion, provide in its tariffs and contracts with its End Users or Third Parties that relate to any Interconnection, functions, facilities, products and services provided or contemplated under this Interim Agreement that, to the maximum extent permitted by Applicable Law, such Party shall not be liable to such End User or Third Party for (i) any Loss relating to or arising out of this Interim Agreement, whether in contract, tort or otherwise, that exceeds the amount such Party would have charged the End User or Third Party for the Interconnection, functions, facilities, products and services that gave rise to such Loss and (ii) any Consequential Damages. If a Party elects not to place in its tariffs or contracts such limitation(s) of liability, and the other Party incurs a Loss as a result thereof, the first Party shall indemnify and reimburse the other Party for that portion of the Loss that would have been limited had the first Party included in its tariffs and contracts the limitation(s) of liability described in this Section.
- 24.4 Except to the extent (if at all) prohibited by law or public policy, neither NextGen nor AMERITECH WISCONSIN shall be liable to the other Party for any indirect, incidental, consequential, reliance, special or punitive damages suffered by the other Party (including, without limitation, damages for harm to business, loss of anticipated revenues, savings, or profits, or other economic loss suffered by such other Party), regardless of the form of action, whether in contract, warranty, strict

liability, tort or otherwise, including without limitation negligence of any kind, whether active or passive, (and including alleged breaches of this Interim Agreement and causes of action alleged to arise from allegations that breach of this Interim Agreement constitutes a violation of the Federal Telecommunications Act or other statute, and regardless of whether the Parties knew or had been advised of the possibility that such damages could result, in connection with or arising from anything said, omitted, or done hereunder or related hereto including willful acts or omissions (collectively, "Consequential Damages") ; provided that the foregoing shall not limit a Party's obligation under this Interim Agreement to indemnify, defend, and hold the other Party harmless against any amounts payable to a third party, including any losses, costs, fines, penalties, criminal or civil judgments or settlements, expenses (including attorney's fees) and Consequential Damages of such third party. Except as provided in the prior sentences, each Party hereby releases and holds harmless the other Party (and such other Party's affiliates, and their respective officers, directors, employees and agents) from any such claim.

**24.5** AMERITECH WISCONSIN is not providing NextGen 911 or Listing Services under this Interim Agreement. If such services are provided at a later date, the Parties shall amend this Interim Agreement, or enter into another agreement, to provide terms and conditions for such services including, but not limited to, the scope of liability for such services.

**24.6** This Section is not intended to exempt any Party from liability under this Interim Agreement, but only to set forth the scope of damages that are recoverable. Both Parties acknowledge that they negotiated regarding alternate limitation of liability provisions but that such provisions would have altered the cost, and thus the price, of providing the interconnection and services hereunder and no different pricing reflecting different costs and different limits of liability was agreed to.

## **25. THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARIES; DISCLAIMER OF AGENCY**

**25.1** This Interim Agreement is for the sole benefit of the Parties and their permitted assigns, and nothing herein express or implied shall create or be construed to create any third-party beneficiary rights hereunder. Except for provisions herein expressly authorizing a Party to act for another, nothing in this Interim Agreement shall constitute a Party as a legal representative or agent of the other Party, nor shall a Party have the right or authority to assume, create or incur any liability or any obligation of any kind, express or implied, against or in the name or on behalf of the other Party unless otherwise expressly permitted by such other Party. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Interim Agreement, no Party undertakes to perform any obligation of the other Party, whether regulatory or contractual, or to assume any responsibility for the management of the other Party's business.

## **26. NO LICENSE**

26.1 Except as otherwise provided in this Interim Agreement, no license under patents, copyrights or any other intellectual property right (other than the limited license to use consistent with the terms, conditions and restrictions of this Interim Agreement) is granted by either Party or shall be implied or arise by estoppel with respect to any transactions contemplated under this Interim Agreement.

## **27. SURVIVAL**

27.1 The Parties' obligations under this Interim Agreement which by their nature are intended to continue beyond the termination or expiration of this Interim Agreement shall survive the termination or expiration of this Interim Agreement including but not limited to Indemnification, Limitation of Liability and Confidentiality.

## **28. SEVERABILITY**

28.1 If any provision of this Interim Agreement is rejected or held to be illegal, invalid or unenforceable, each Party agrees that such provision shall be enforced to the maximum extent permissible so as to effect the intent of the Parties, and the validity, legality and enforceability of the remaining provisions of this Interim Agreement shall not in any way be affected or impaired thereby. If necessary to effect the intent of the Parties, the Parties shall negotiate in good faith to amend this Interim Agreement to replace the unenforceable language with enforceable language that reflects such intent as closely as possible. The Parties negotiated the terms and conditions of this Interim Agreement for Interconnection, services and Network Elements as a total arrangement and it is intended to be nonseverable.

## **29. COMPLIANCE WITH LAW**

29.1 Each Party shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws, rules and regulations applicable to its performance under this Interim Agreement.

## **30. LAW ENFORCEMENT**

30.1 AMERITECH WISCONSIN(s) and NextGen shall handle law enforcement requests as follows:

30.1.1 Intercept Devices: Local and federal law enforcement agencies periodically request information or assistance from local telephone service providers. When either Party receives a request associated with an End User of the other Party, it shall refer such request to the Party that serves such End User, unless the request directs the receiving Party to attach a pen register, trap-and-trace or form of intercept on the Party's facilities, in which case that Party shall comply with any valid request.

30.1.2 Subpoenas: If a Party receives a subpoena for information concerning an end

user the Party knows to be an End User of the other Party, it shall refer the subpoena to the requesting Party with an indication that the other Party is the responsible company, unless the subpoena requests records for a period of time during which the Party was the End User's service provider, in which case the Party will respond to any valid request, or unless otherwise required by law to respond to the subpoena.

- 30.1.3 Emergencies: If a Party receives a request from a law enforcement agency for temporary number change, temporary disconnect, or one-way denial of outbound calls for an End User of the other Party by the receiving Party's switch, that Party will comply with a valid emergency request. However, neither Party shall be held liable for any claims or damages arising from compliance with such requests on behalf of the other Party's End User and the Party serving such End User agrees to indemnify and hold the other Party harmless against any and all such claims.

### **31. TERM AND TERMINATION**

- 31.1 The Effective Date of this Interim Agreement shall be December 4, 2001.
- 31.2 This Interim Agreement shall automatically terminate on December 3, 2002 ("the Term") or at such other time as the Parties may mutually agree.
- 31.3 Except as otherwise provided in Section 31.4 below, upon automatic termination of this Interim Agreement as provided for in Section 31.2 above, neither Party shall have any further rights or obligations under this Interim Agreement.
- 31.4 Upon termination or expiration of this Interim Agreement:
- 31.4.1 Each Party shall continue to comply with its obligations in the Confidentiality Section of this Interim Agreement;
- 31.4.2 Each Party shall promptly pay all undisputed amounts owed under this Interim Agreement;
- 31.4.3 Each Party's indemnification obligations shall survive; and
- 31.4.4 Each Party shall comply with the Survival clause in this Interim Agreement.

### **32. ENTIRE AGREEMENT**

- 32.1 The terms contained in this Interim Agreement and any Exhibits, tariffs and other documents or instruments referred to herein, which are incorporated into this Interim Agreement by reference, constitute the entire agreement between the Parties with



respect to the subject matter hereof, superseding all prior understandings, proposals and other communications, oral or written.

### **33. INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE**

33.1 This Interim Agreement and every interconnection or service provided hereunder, shall be subject to all rates, terms and conditions contained in this Interim Agreement or its appendices or attachments which are legitimately related to such interconnection or service and all such rates, terms and conditions are incorporated by reference herein and as part of every interconnection or service provided hereunder. The Parties agree that except for Section 13 Notices, each of the sections of this Interim Agreement are legitimately related to and to be applicable to each interconnection or service provided hereunder.

### **34. RELATIONSHIP OF THE PARTIES/INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR**

34.1 Each Party is an independent contractor, and has and hereby retains the right to exercise full control of and supervision over its own performance of its obligations under this Interim Agreement and retains full control over the employment, direction, compensation and discharge of its employees assisting in the performance of such obligations. Each Party and each Party's contractor(s) shall be solely responsible for all matters relating to payment of such employees, including the withholding or payment of all applicable federal, state and local income taxes, social security taxes and other payroll taxes with respect to its employees, as well as any taxes, contributions or other obligations imposed by applicable state unemployment or workers' compensation acts and all other regulations governing such matters. Each Party has sole authority and responsibility to hire, fire and otherwise control its employees.

34.2 Nothing contained herein shall constitute the Parties as joint venturers, partners, employees or agents of one another, and neither Party shall have the right or power to bind or obligate the other. Nothing herein will be construed as making either Party responsible or liable for the obligations and undertakings of the other Party. Except for provisions herein expressly authorizing a Party to act for another, nothing in this Interim Agreement shall constitute a Party as a legal representative or agent of the other Party, nor shall a Party have the right or authority to assume, create or incur any liability or any obligation of any kind, express or implied, against or in the name or on behalf of the other Party unless otherwise expressly permitted by such other Party. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Interim Agreement, no Party undertakes to perform any obligation of the other Party, whether regulatory or contractual, or to assume any responsibility for the management of the other Party's business.

### **35. MULTIPLE COUNTERPARTS**

- 35.1 This Interim Agreement may be executed in multiple counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, but all of which shall together constitute but one and the same document.

### **36. SUBCONTRACTORS**

- 36.1 If either Party retains or engages any subcontractor to perform any of that Party's obligations under this Interim Agreement, each Party will remain fully responsible for the performance of this Interim Agreement in accordance with its terms, including any obligations either Party performs through subcontractors.
- 36.2 Each Party will be solely responsible for payments due that Party's subcontractors.
- 36.3 No subcontractor will be deemed a Third Party beneficiary for any purposes under this Interim Agreement.
- 36.4 No contract, subcontract or other agreement entered into by either Party with any Third Party in connection with the provision of Interconnection, Resale Services, Network Elements, functions, facilities, products and services hereunder will provide for any indemnity, guarantee or assumption of liability by the other Party to this Interim Agreement with respect to such arrangement, except as consented to in writing by the other Party.
- 36.5 Any subcontractor that gains access to CPNI or Proprietary Information covered by this Interim Agreement shall be required by the subcontracting Party to protect such CPNI or Proprietary Information to the same extent the subcontracting Party is required to protect such CPNI or Proprietary Information under the terms of this Interim Agreement.

### **37. AMENDMENTS AND MODIFICATIONS**

- 37.1 No provision of this Interim Agreement shall be deemed amended or modified by either Party unless such an amendment or modification is in writing, dated, and signed by an authorized representative of both Parties.
- 37.2 Neither Party shall be bound by any preprinted terms additional to or different from those in this Interim Agreement that may appear subsequently in the other Party's form documents, purchase orders, quotations, acknowledgments, invoices or other communications.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have executed this Interim Agreement through their duly authorized representatives.

NextGen Communications, LLC

Wisconsin Bell, Inc. d/b/a AMERITECH

WISCONSIN

By SBC Telecommunications, Inc., its authorized agent

BY: Mark Anderson  
(Signature)

NAME: Mark Anderson  
(Printed)

TITLE: Manager

DATE: 12/4/01

BY: OR Stanley  
(Signature)

NAME: O. R. Stanley

President-Industry Markets

DATE: DEC 18 2001

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## **EXHIBIT A**

### **COMPENSATION**

#### **ALL COMPENSATION IS MONTHLY UNLESS INDICATED OTHERWISE**

Exhibit A is used to administer compensation for toll and transiting traffic compensation and changes to any fixed rate billing. Billing for measured traffic will be rendered monthly from mechanized systems.

The Parties to this agreement acknowledge that ELCA traffic does not exist at this time and within the scope of this Interim Agreement. Both parties agree to update and amend this Interim Agreement within 90 days upon the commencement of any such calling arrangement.

Transit traffic from NextGen through AMERITECH WISCONSIN is contemplated in this Interim Agreement and will be billed quarterly in the month following the quarter. If measurement systems fail to properly capture, rate, and render billing, then the Parties agree to use estimates of volumes through a mutually agreed upon methodology. The Parties agree that as of the Effective Date of this Interim Agreement, based on the reasonable estimate of expected call volume, the small size of the exchanges covered by the terms of this Interim Agreement (less than 1000 access lines), and by applying the rates set forth in AMERITECH WISCONSIN's PSCW Tariff No. 20, Part 23, Section 2, E.1 (Revised Sheet No. 14), NextGen shall pay AMERITECH WISCONSIN \$350 for transit traffic for the one year term of this Interim Agreement. Should actual traffic studies/measurements reveal a greater call volume, the Parties agree to true-up the amount paid by NextGen by applying the rates listed in AMERITECH WISCONSIN's PSCW Tariff No. 20, Part 23, Section 2, E.1 (Revised Sheet No. 14).

#### **Access Rates:**

Rates charged by AMERITECH WISCONSIN are set forth in AMERITECH WISCONSIN's Interstate Tariff (Tariff F.C.C. No. 2, Part 6, Section 6.9.1,A (20<sup>th</sup> revised page 207.1)).

#### **Rates Charged by NextGen are:**

Switched Facility	\$0.000216
Switched Termination	\$0.001065
Transport Interconnection Charge	\$0.010679
End Office Local Switching	\$0.024128
Information Surcharge (per 100 minutes of use)	\$0.0161

## FACILITY AGREEMENT

**This Agreement**, effective as of the 4th day of December, 2001 ("Effective Date"), between Wisconsin Bell Inc. d/b/a Ameritech Wisconsin ("AMERITECH"), a Wisconsin corporation, and Nextgen Communications, LLC ("CARRIER"), a Wisconsin limited liability company, expresses the terms and conditions upon which AMERITECH will furnish to the CARRIER the facilities described in Exhibit I at the rates so indicated in Exhibit I, which is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

1. By agreement of the parties, new exhibits covering changes in rates and facilities and/or uses can be substituted hereafter, after being properly executed by both parties; and upon their execution and in accordance with the effective date thereof, said new exhibits shall supersede and cancel all prior exhibits.
2. The CARRIER will pay to AMERITECH the one channel monthly rate set forth in Exhibit I. All payments shall be due within thirty (30) days of the invoice date. Late payments shall be subject to a Late Payment Fee equal to 1.5% of the outstanding balance per month, or the highest rate permitted by law, whichever is less.
3. AMERITECH shall maintain its facilities in good working order and shall, if repair is necessary, repair the facilities in a timely manner.
4. This Agreement shall be effective as of the Effective Date and, unless canceled or terminated earlier in accordance with the terms hereof, shall continue in effect for a period of two (2) years (the "Initial Term"). This Agreement will automatically renew for successive one (1) year periods (the "Renewal Term") unless either party requests renegotiation or gives notice of termination at least ninety (90) days prior to the expiration of the Initial Term or any subsequent Renewal Term. In the event the parties agree to renegotiate this Agreement and such renegotiation does not conclude prior to expiration of this Agreement or a party gives notice of termination and the other party requests a replacement agreement and a replacement agreement is not reached prior to the expiration of this Agreement, this Agreement shall continue in full force and effect until replaced by a superseding agreement. However, in no event shall this Agreement continue in full force and effect for a period of more than ninety (90) days after the expiration date if the parties have agreed to renegotiate.
5. CARRIER may not use the facilities described in Exhibit I in any manner which will cause harm to AMERITECH's network. Furthermore, CARRIER may only use the facilities set out in Exhibit I for transporting E9-1-1 trunking. The parties agree that this Agreement provides only the terms and conditions for transport facilities; all other applicable terms, rates and conditions for E9-1-1 service, including but not limited to E9-1-1 trunking and database are provided pursuant to Ameritech's Wisconsin E9-1-1 tariff (PSCW No. 20 Part 23, Section 3).

6. The CARRIER shall not at any time alter in any way the facilities provided hereunder without the written consent of AMERITECH.
7. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to confer upon the CARRIER any rights or property in the facilities of AMERITECH or as guarantee to the CARRIER of permission from regulatory authorities or property owners to use facilities.
8. The CARRIER shall not assign, transfer, sublet or permit any other entity to cohabit any of the facilities described in this Agreement without the consent in writing of AMERITECH.
9. If CARRIER fails to make a payment required by Exhibit I of this Agreement or either party materially breaches any other material provision of this Agreement ("Defaulting Party"), and such failure or breach continues for thirty (30) days after written notice thereof from the other party, the other party may, by written notice to the Defaulting Party terminate this Agreement.
10. CARRIER shall indemnify, defend and hold harmless AMERITECH, AMERITECH's affiliates, and the directors, officers and employees of AMERITECH from and against all claims, demands, damages, losses, actions, costs and charges to which AMERITECH may be subjected or which it may have to pay, by reason of any injury to person or damage to property or loss of life or property, suffered by any person, firm or entity proximately caused by the negligent or intentional wrongful acts or omissions of the CARRIER, the CARRIER's affiliates or the directors, officers, employees, agents or contractors of the CARRIER, in connection with this Agreement.
11. AMERITECH's liability is limited to an amount equal to the rate paid by CARRIER for the facilities provided hereunder. Except as set forth in Section 10, CARRIER's liability is limited to an amount equal to the rate owed by CARRIER under this Agreement. In no event shall either party be liable for any consequential or incidental damages or expenses including lost profits, sustained or incurred in connection with the performance or non-performance of the terms and conditions of this Agreement, regardless of the form of action, whether in contract, tort, strict liability, or otherwise, and whether or not such damages are foreseeable. It is understood and agreed that AMERITECH and CARRIER are not insurers and that the monthly charges for the facilities provided hereunder are based solely on their value and on the scope of liabilities set forth in this Agreement and that said monthly charges are unrelated to the potential for indirect, incidental, consequential or other damages. AMERITECH and CARRIER agree that this allocation of risk and liability is fair and reasonable.
12. By entering into this Agreement CARRIER does not waive and reserves any rights it may have to seek inclusion in and become a part of the current contract and any future

contracts between the County of St. Croix, Wisconsin, Ameritech and any other local exchange carriers providing local exchange service in the County of St. Croix, Wisconsin, regarding the provisioning of E9-1-1 or equivalent services.

NEXTGEN COMMUNICATIONS, LLC.

By: Mark Anderson  
(Title) Manager  
Date: 12/4/01

WISCONSIN BELL, INC. D/B/A  
AMERITECH WISCONSIN

**O. R. Stanley**  
By: OR Stanley  
(Title) President-Industry Markets  
Date: DEC 18 2001

## Exhibit I

Attached to and made a part of the Facility Agreement dated December 4, 2001 between Wisconsin Bell, Inc. d/b/a Ameritech Wisconsin and Nextgen Communications, LLC ("Nextgen").

### **Description:**

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1 – DS1 channel (equivalent to the capacity of 1/24<sup>th</sup> of a full DS1) via the 408/T1/13/BLWDWIXADSA/EUCLWI01KO1 SYSTEM.

Tariff No. 20, Part 15, Section 3 applies to DS1 facilities provided hereunder to the extent not contradicted by terms set forth in the Facility Agreement or this Exhibit. See also Section 5 of the Facility Agreement regarding E9-1-1 services and trunking.

### **Facility Monthly Rates:**

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Standard full DS1 Monthly rate (Rate Zone 3)

1 CMT:	\$ 331.00
1 LDC:	\$ 81.00
Channel Mileage:	\$1190.43 (44.09 channel miles x \$ 27.00 per mile)
Subtotal:	\$1602.43

**One channel Monthly rate: \$66.77 (\$1602.43 / 24)**

Since Nextgen is using only one channel, Nextgen pays the one channel rate rather than the full rate.

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